



Date: February 10, 2025

To: Chairman Ken Rahjes, House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

From: Shahira Stafford, Kansas Cooperative Council

RE: Proponent Written Testimony on HB 2255

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2255 on behalf of the Kansas Cooperative Council (Co-op Council).

Formed in 1944, the Co-op Council is a voluntary trade association representing all forms of cooperatively structured business in Kansas. Our purpose is to further the understanding of cooperative principals, methods of doing business, and the impact co-ops have on our state's rural economy. Kansas co-ops have over 575 locations, employ over 5,000 people, and represent over 116,000 members.

Our organization represents agricultural cooperatives that operate numerous weighing and measuring devices across the state, from grain elevator scales to fuel dispensers.

We appreciate the Kansas Department of Agriculture's comprehensive proposal to modernize Kansas's weights and measures laws. Having clear, modern terminology helps ensure consistent interpretation and application of these regulations. The modernization of enforcement mechanisms and administrative procedures provides clarity and certainty for businesses.

New licensing requirements for service companies ensure that repairs and calibrations are performed by qualified individuals, protecting both our cooperatives and their farmer customers. We also support the new requirements for information provided on scale tickets, as most scales already require this today.

While the increase in the minimum fee per invoice from \$50 to \$70 represents an additional cost, our members understand that proper oversight requires adequate funding. It's important to maintain high standards for accuracy and consumer protection.

The Co-op Council supports the thoughtful updates to Kansas' weights and measures laws and urges your support of House Bill 2255.